

C. Remarks

The claims are 23, 25, 48 and 51-56, with claims 23, 25, 48 and 51 being independent. Claims 1-22, 24, 26-47 and 50 have been cancelled. Claim 23 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-19, 22, 24, 26-44, 47 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious from JP 2000-285751 (Hirahara) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,645,960 (Scrosati).

Without acquiescence, and solely to expedite prosecution, the above rejected claims have been cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot and should be withdrawn. Applicants intend to pursue the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

The only claims remaining in the application are claims 23, 25, 48 and 51-56, which the Examiner has already allowed. Wherefore, it is respectfully requested that the present case be passed to issue.


Applicants submit that they have complied with the requirement set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, and therefore, believe that this Amendment should be considered and entered. The Amendment places the case in allowable form by complying with the requirements set forth by the Examiner and by cancelling the rejected and withdrawn claims without introducing any new issued requiring further consideration and/or search. Alternatively, the Amendment places the case in a better form for a possible appeal.

All issues are believed to have been resolved by the above Amendment. However, should the Examiner disagree, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants'

undersigned attorney at the below-listed telephone number prior to issuing an action other than a Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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